

Memo To : Anne Madden

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08 AUG 2013

From ; Ray Suter

BY:

Subject; PROPOSED VEGETATION PROTECTION LEGISLATION

I refer to our conversation on Thursday , regarding the concerns raised, from the point of view of an orchid hobbyist.

*** Present legislation**

- a. basically good for the grower of native orchids.
- b. * Propagators Permit only requires inspection to determine grower is not bush collecting.
- c. Virtually impossible for rescue collecting from clearfell sites. By the time a permit could be obtained, stacks would be long since burned, or plants consumed by feral or domestic animals.

*** Proposed preferred Legislation**

- a. (page 7) **Trade** What is the definition of trade? Most hobby growers dispose of surplus plants by selling them at shows. Could these growers be expected to complete line of evidence record keeping . Many of these growers are long past retirement age, and the plants they would be selling could have been unrecorded in their collections for decades.
- b. Licences. What are least concern plants? Under the old rules, all native orchid species growing in the wild were protected. This was good as we wouldn't want them ripped off trees and flogged at the Sunday markets. However some provision could be made for collection of pollen and seed, to increase genetic diversity in line bred plants. This would have minimal impact on wild populations, but it could be a proviso in the regulations or permit, that a proportion of plants from wild collected seed be reintroduced into the collection area.
- c. Would hobby growers of protected plants require a growers licence? Paper shows (4.2.1) that licences won't be needed for growing **least concern** plants. If native orchids are **Most Concern**, will virtually every serious orchid hobbyist require a growers licence? This area will have to be well spelled out in legislation, or you can bet your boots that sometime in the future, some bureaucrat will decide to enforce this as a way of meeting departmental budgetary targets. Also what will happen about those folk, not orchid hobbyists but gardeners, who have a few common species(e.g. dendrobium speciosum) growing on trees in their gardens? These are still listed as protected , and wild specimens should probably be protected from predation.
- d. Could some effort be made when framing legislation to speed up issue of collectors licences in salvage situations. Perhaps authorized bodies (e.g. Australasian Native Orchid Society, Society for Growing Native Australian Plants) could be given some input into these requirements.

Ray

